

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a distributed network environment having a server computer system and a plurality of managed resources including hardware and software resources, each resource maintaining a plurality of objects, a method of representing ~~at least one of the objects~~ an object maintained by a first resource comprising:

receiving a first schema document that conforms to a property sheet definition such that the first schema document defines a property sheet;

receiving ~~[[a]]~~ two or more second schema documents that conform to a property page definition to thereby define a plurality of property pages, wherein at least one property page originates from a first resource and at least one property page originates from a second resource, wherein the first resource is a software resource, the second resource is a hardware resource, and the second resource being different from the first resource;

modifying the property sheet to include the received property pages; and wherein the property sheet represents the object.

2. (original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the property sheet comprises object-type information applicable to objects of the same type, and wherein the property pages comprise resource-specific information.

3. (original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display information related to an instance of an object;

accessing the property sheet related to the object-type of the instance of the object;

displaying object-type information gleaned from the property sheet;

using the property pages of the property sheet, displaying information related to resources associated with the instance of the object;

requesting the resources associated with the instance of the object to supply instance-specific information; and

displaying received instance-specific information from the associated resources.

4. (original) A method as defined in claim 3 wherein at least one property page includes a pointer to executable code on its associated resource for resolving a request for instance specific information.

5. (original) A method as defined in claim 4 wherein the code relates to a search engine on the associated resource.

6. (original) A method as defined in claim 1 wherein the predetermined definitions for the property sheet and property pages are XML document type definitions.

7. (original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 1.

8. (original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 2.

9. (original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 3.

10. (original) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 6.

11. (currently amended) In a network environment having a computer and multiple resources, a computer program product readable by [[a]]the computer and having stored thereon a computer readable data structure for managing an object associated with multiple resources, the data structure comprising:

a property sheet representing the object maintained by one of the multiple resources;

a first property page associated with a first software resource;

a second property page associated with a second hardware resource; and

wherein the first and second property pages are stored in association with the property sheet.

12. (original) A computer program product as defined in claim 11 wherein the property sheet relates to object type information and wherein the property pages relate to resource-specific information.

13. (original) A computer program product as defined in claim 12 wherein at least one property page includes a pointer to executable code on its associated resource for resolving a request for instance specific information.

14. (new) In a distributed network environment having a server computer system and a plurality of managed resources including a first resource having a first object, a method of installing a new resource on the distributed network comprising:

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storing a property sheet representing the first object, the property sheet conforming to an XML property sheet schema and having one or more first property pages conforming to an XML property page schema, each of the one or more first property pages provided by one of the plurality of managed resources;

receiving a request from the new resource to be installed on the distributed network, the new resource having information associated with the first object;

receiving a second property page from the new resource, the second property page conforming to the XML property page schema and including new resource information associated with the first object; and

storing the second property page with the property sheet.

15. (new) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the property sheet is stored on the first resource and from which the user can manage the new resource's relationship with the first object.

16. (new) A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the property sheet includes at least one first property page provided by a managed hardware resource and at least one first property page provided by a managed software resource.

17. (new) A method as defined in claim 14 wherein the property sheet comprises object-type information applicable to objects of the same type, and wherein the property pages comprise resource-specific information.

18. (new) A method as defined in claim 14 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a request to display information related to the first object;

accessing the property sheet representing the first object;

displaying object-type information from the property sheet; and

displaying new resource information associated with the first object from the second property page.

19. (new) A method as defined in claim 18 wherein the new resource information associated with the first object includes a pointer to executable code on the new resource for resolving a request for first object specific information and wherein displaying comprises:

accessing the pointer.

20. (new) A computer program product readable by a computer and encoding instructions for executing the method recited in claim 14.
